**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program**

**Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, September 6 , 2018 @ 1 p.m.**

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program – Salmon, Idaho**

**Present:** Shannon Williams(U of I extension; Chairperson), Tom Ford (USFS), V. Don Olson (Lemhi Rancher), Harley Wallis (Pahsimeroi Rancher), Linda Price (BLM), Paddy Murphy (IDFG), Daniel Bertram (USBWP), Abbie Gongloff (USBWP), Mike Edmondson (OSC), Rosana Rieth (NRCS), Rusty Hamilton (LSWCD), Chris Gaughan (USBWP), Hannah Dondy-Kaplan (BPA), Cindy Yenter (IDWR), Chad Fealko (NMFS), Amy Cassel (IDWR), Cindy Salo (Sage Eco Sci), Ryan Warden (IDWR)

On Conference Call: Windy Schoby (IDFG)

**Welcome and Introductions**

**June 6, 2017 Meeting Notes:** Williams made a motion to approve. Price seconded. All in favor.

**Presentations:**

* Groundwater Levels within the Lemhi Basin (Warden) – Warden presented on the IDWR study that is looking at how ground and surface water impact each other throughout the Lemhi Basin. Seventeen wells are measured manually by Rick Sager from March through December. Twenty-four wells are measured by an automatic pressure reducer that measures every 12 hrs. Sager is funded through BPA, and IDWR pays for the transducer wells. The IDWR study began in 2011 and drew on a USBR study done in 1995. The study is ongoing due to the variability and seasonality of groundwater. Data to date shows a reverse aquifer: when irrigation is on, groundwater is up; when irrigation is off, groundwater is down. Reith made a motion to continue supporting the study. Price seconded.

**Old Business**

* Upper Salmon Diversion and Screening BiOps (Ford) – USFS is finishing up consultation on the Upper Salmon. NOAA has drafted an offset plan and is waiting for USFS to provide input.
* Forest Plan Revision (Bertram) – USFS is field validating the plan for scenic values, botanicals. etc. Most of the streams with ESA fish species will fall out under sustainability and will not warrant additional protections.
* Grazing Study (Bertram) - BPA funding has been decreased; all monitoring has been cut significantly and the USBP office budget will no longer be able to fund the grazing study on Carmen Creek.

**New Business**

* Advisory Committee Membership (Bertram) - Kristin Troy has stepped down as Vice-Chairperson and the Recreation Representative. Stephanie Ellis has declined to fill this positon. Cranney’s may be interested. Green is interested. The NGO position vacated by Mark Davidson could be filled with Justin Petty, TNC, who is willing to accept it. Both open positions will be posted in the Recorder Herald and Challis Messenger and LSWCD will pay for the advertising. Williams’s chairpersonship is up in December. It is a two year term for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
* USBWP staff changes (Bertram) – Chris Gaughan replaced Adair Muth. Twenty people applied for that position. Allen Bradbury has taken a position with IDWR in Boise and we will be filling that positon in the near future.

**Tech Team Update** (Schoby) – The Tech Team took a break during the summer and held their annual camp out in Stanley this year, which was led by the USBR and focused on the IRA. In their meeting this week, they ranked four projects: two in the North Fork and two in the Lemhi.

**USBWP Project Updates** –

* Upper Pratt Creek Access and Flow Enhancement Project (Bertram) – Cultural has been completed.
* Little Springs Instream Structures (Gongloff) - Forty structures were installed.
* Pratt Creek Channel Restoration, Bridge, and Hedt Irrigation (Gongloff) – Added a stockwater component for Fred Snook that NRCS will design and the landowner will pay to install.
* Little Sawmill Creek Restoration (Gongloff) – Restoration component will begin late this month. Irrigation component will be completed this fall or early spring.
* Rattlesnake Culverts to Bridge (Gongloff) – This project will be implemented in October by Lemhi County.
* Beaver Mimicry (Gaughan) –

**Advisory Committee Membership Update**

* **Bureau of Land Management** (Price) –BLM is streamlining their NEPA. New categorical exclusions for restoration were requested. Price has received a directive to reduce her labor force by 10%, which they will complete by not filling vacant positions. She has been given advance warning that in 2019, there will be a directive to reduce the labor force by 24%.
* **Governor’s Office of Species Conservation** (Edmondson) – Dustin Miller, the OSC administrator, has taken a new job as the Director of IDL, which he will begin on 10/1. An interim administrator has not been decided upon at this time. Idaho is negotiating a new Accord agreement. We will receive a 2.5% decrease in the Accord budget. Other programs have received a 12% decrease. The new Accord should be signed by 9/30/18.
* **Idaho Department of Fish and Game** (Murphy) – IDFG is using drone flights to survey redds this year. So far they three have crashed. The Shoshone Bannock tribe has had 145 Chinook pass over their panther Creek weir, and 42 passed the Yankee Fork weir last week. Last year’s steelhead run was the latest to date. This year they are not catching up. Fish are moving up into the Pahsimeroi where projects have been completed. There is 35 cfs on the Big Spring side and 15 in the Pahsimeroi where it used to go dry by Hooper lane.
* **Landowner – East Fork** (Baker) – Not present.
* **Landowners – Lemhi** (V. Olson/Mulkey) – No update.
* **Landowner – Main Salmon** (Hoffman) – Not present.
* **Landowner – Pahsimeroi** (Wallis) – No update.
* **Lemhi SWCD** (Hamilton) – No update.
* **Lemhi County Commissioner** (Miner) – Not present.
* **Non-agency fish and wildlife interest** (Position not filled) – NA
* **NRCS** (Reith) – Obligated additional contracts through the sagebrush initiative. Farm Bill EQIP applications are due 10/5.
* **Recreation interest** (Green) – Chukar hunting was not so great in Salmon, but was better in Riggins. There were three redds on the mainstem Middle Fork and flows were good there and in the main Salmon.
* **UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon** (Williams) –. Sale prices were low for the animals this year at the fair, but attendance at the rodeos were up.
* **U.S. Forest Service** (Ford) – USFS budgets have remained flat. Fire season was busy. We had another red flag warning recently.

**Vacant Positions**

Shoshone – Bannock Tribe

Custer County Commissioner

**Public Comment**

* None.

**Adjourn**

***The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2018.***

**Commonly used Acronyms:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25/35 | Minimum flows required at L-6 |
| ACEP | Agricultural Conservation Easement Program |
| AEM | Action Effectiveness Monitoring |
| AFS | American Fisheries Society |
| ANS | Aquatic Nuisance Species |
| AREMP | Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program |
| BA | Biological Assessment |
| BACI | Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type) |
| BEF | Bonneville Environmental Foundation |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| BMS | Beaver Mimicry Structure |
| BO/BiOp | Biological Opinion |
| BPA | Bonneville Power Administration |
| CHaMP | Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program |
| CMZ | Channel Migration Zone |
| CREP | Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program |
| CRSO | Columbia River System Operations |
| CSWCD | Custer Soil and Water Conservation District |
| CWT | Coded Wire Tags |
| DEQ | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality |
| DPS | Distinct Population Segment |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| ELJ | Engineered Log Jam |
| EQIP | Environmental Quality Incentives Program |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| ESU | Evolutionarily Significant Unit |
| FCRPS | Federal Columbia River Power System |
| FIA | Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS) |
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| Four “H”s | The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GM | Geometric Mean |
| HACCP | Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point |
| HGMP | Hatchery Genetic Management Plan |
| HPA | Hydraulic Project Approval |
| HSRG | Hatchery Scientific Review Group |
| IDFG | Idaho Department of Fish and Game |
| IDWR | Idaho Department of Water Resources |
| IMW | Intensively Monitored Watershed |
| IS | Implementation Schedule |
| ISEMP | Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project |
| ISRP | Independent Scientific Review Panel |
| IT | Implementation Team |
| L-x | L- "fill in the blank" refers to any Lemhi River Diversion e.g. L-63 |
| IWRB | Idaho Water Resource Board |
| LRBM | Lemhi River Basin Model (Mike Basin Model for the Lemhi) |
| LRLT | Lemhi Regional Land Trust |
| LSWCD | Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District |
| LW/LWD | Large Wood/Large Woody Debris |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MPG | Major Population Group |
| NFF | National Forest Foundation |
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NPCC | Northwest Power and Conservation Council |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| OSC | Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation |
| P-x | P- "fill in the blank" refers to any Pahsimeroi River Diversion e.g. P-16 |
| PCSRF | Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund |
| PHABSIM | Physical Habitat Simulation |
| PIBO | PACFISH/INFISH\* Biological Opinion |
| PIT Tag | Passive Integrated Transponder Tag |
| PNAMP | Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership |
| QAQC | Quality Assurance, Quality Control |
| QRF | Quantile Regression Forests |
| RA | Reach Assessment |
| RFP | Request for Proposals |
| RM | River Mile |
| RM&E | Research, Monitoring and Evaluation |
| RPA | Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s) |
| S-x | S- "fill in the blank" refers to any Salmon River Diversion e.g. S-22 |
| SBT | Shoshone-Bannock Tribes |
| SNRA | Sawtooth National Recreation Area |
| SOW | Statement of Work |
| STEM Database | Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center |
| TA | Tributary Assessment |
| TNC | The Nature Conservancy |
| TRM&E | Tributary Research, Monitoring and Evaluation |
| TRT | Technical Recovery Team (NOAA) |
| TT | USBWP Technical Team |
| TU | Trout Unlimited |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USBR | Bureau of Reclamation |
| USBWP | Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| USFS | US Forest Service |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | US Geological Survey |
| VSP | Viable Salmonid Population |
| WAC | USBWP Advisory Committee |
| WAG | DEQ Watershed Advisory Group |
| WRP | Wetland Reserve Program |
| \*PACFISH/ INFISH | The PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring Program was initiated in 1998 to provide a consistent framework for monitoring aquatic and riparian resources on most Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Upper Columbia River Basin. |